2 ESDRAS 16

1611 KING JAMES VERSION

Arranged By M. Love

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16:1 Woe be unto thee, Babylon, and Asia! Woe be unto thee, Egypt and Syria!
16:2 Gird up yourselves with cloths of sack and hair, bewail your children,

and be sorry;
for your
destruction is
at hand.
16:3 A sword is
sent upon you,
and who may
turn it back?
16:4 A fire is sent
among you, and
who may

quench it?

16:5 Plagues are sent unto you, and what is he that may drive them away?

16:6 May any man drive away an hungry lion in the wood? or may any one

quench the fire in stubble, when it hath begun to burn?
16:7 May one turn again the arrow that is shot of a strong archer? 16:8 The mighty Lord sendeth the

plagues and who is he that can drive them away? 16:9 A fire shall go forth from his wrath, and who is he that may quench it? 15:10 He shall cast lightnings,

and who shall not fear? he shall thunder, and who shall not be afraid?
16:11 The Lord shall threaten, and who shall not be utterly beaten to powder at his

presence?
16:12 The earth quaketh, and the foundations thereof; the sea ariseth up with waves from the deep, and the waves of it are troubled, and the fishes

thereof also, before the Lord, and before the glory of his power:

16:13 For strong is his right hand that bendeth the bow, his arrows that he shooteth are sharp, and

shall not miss, when they begin to be shot into the ends of the world.

16:14 Behold, the plagues are sent, and shall not return again, until they come upon the earth.

16:15 The fire is kindled, and shall not be put out, till it consume the foundation of the earth.

16:16 Like as an arrow which is shot of a mighty archer returneth

not backward: even so the plagues that shall be sent upon earth shall not return again.
16:17 Woe is me! woe is me! who will deliver me in those days?
16:18 The

beginning of sorrows and great mournings; the beginning of famine and great death; the beginning of wars, and the powers shall stand in fear; the

beginning of evils! what shall I do when these evils shall come?

16:19 Behold, famine and plague, tribulation and anguish, are sent as scourges

for amendment.
16:20 But for all these things they shall not turn from their wickedness, nor be always mindful of the scourges.
16:21 Behold, victuals shall be

so good cheap upon earth, that they shall think themselves to be in good case, and even then shall evils grow upon earth, sword, famine, and great confusion.

16:22 For many of them that dwell upon earth shall perish of famine; and the other, that escape the hunger, shall the sword destroy.
16:23 And the dead shall be

cast out as dung, and there shall be no man to comfort them: for the earth shall be wasted, and the cities shall be cast down.

16:24 There shall be no man left to

till the earth, and to sow it
16:25 The trees shall give fruit, and who shall gather them?
16:26 The grapes shall ripen, and who shall tread them? for all places shall be

desolate of men:
16:27 So that one
man shall desire
to see another,
and to hear his
voice. 16:28 For
of a city there
shall be ten left,
and two of the
field, which shall
hide themselves

in the thick groves, and in the clefts of the rocks.

16:29 As in an orchard of Olives upon every tree there are left three or four olives;

16:30 Or as when a vineyard is gathered, there are left some clusters of them that diligently seek through the vineyard:
16:31 Even so in those days there shall be three or

four left by them
that search their
houses with
the sword.
16:32 And the
earth shall be
laid waste, and
the fields
thereof shall wax
old, and her
ways and all her

paths shall grow full of thorns, because no man shall travel therethrough.
16:33 The virgins shall mourn, having no bridegrooms; the women shall mourn, having

no husbands;
their daughters
shall mourn,
having no
helpers.
16:34 In the wars
shall their
bridegrooms be
destroyed, and
their husbands
shall perish of

famine.
16:35 Hear now these things and understand them, ye servants of the Lord.
16:36 Behold, the word of the Lord, receive it: believe not the

gods of whom the Lord spake. 16:37 Behold, the plagues draw nigh, and are not slack. 16:38 As when a woman with child in the ninth month bringeth forth her son, with two

or three hours of her birth great pains compass her womb, which pains, when the child cometh forth, they slack not a moment:

16:39 Even so shall not the plagues be slack

to come upon the earth, and the world shall mourn, and sorrows shall come upon it on every side.

16:40 O my people, hear my word: make you ready

to thy battle, and in those evils be even as pilgrims upon the earth. 16:41 He that selleth, let him be as he that fleeth away: and he that buyeth, as one that will lose: 16:42 He

that occupieth merchandise, as he that hath no profit by it: and he that buildeth, as he that shall not dwell therein: 16:43 He that soweth, as if he should not reap: so also he

that planteth the vineyard, as he that shall not gather the grapes:

16:44 They that marry, as they that shall get no children; and they that marry not, as

the widowers.
16:45 And therefore they that labour labour in vain:
16:46 For strangers shall reap their fruits, and spoil their goods, overthrow their

houses, and take their children captives, for in captivity and famine shall they get children.

16:47 And they that occupy their merchandise with robbery, the more they deck

their cities, their houses, their possessions, and their own persons:
16:48 The more will I be angry with them for their sin, saith the Lord.
16:49 Like as a

whore envieth a right honest and virtuous woman:
16:50 So shall righteousness hate iniquity, when she decketh herself, and shall accuse her to her face, when he cometh

that shall defend him that diligently searcheth out every sin upon earth.

16:51 And therefore be ye not like thereunto, nor to the works

thereof. 16:52 For yet a little, and iniquity shall be taken away out of the earth, and righteousness shall reign among you. 16:53 Let not the sinner say that

he hath not sinned: for God shall burn coals of fire upon his head, which saith before the Lord God and his glory, I have not sinned.

16:54 Behold, the Lord knoweth all

the works of men, their imaginations, their thoughts, and their hearts:
16:55 Which spake but the word, Let the earth be made; and it was made: Let the heaven

be made; and it was created.
16:56 In his word were the stars made, and he knoweth the number of them.
16:57 He searcheth the deep, and the treasures

thereof; he hath measured the sea, and what it containeth.

16:58 He hath shut the sea in the midst of the waters, and with his word hath he hanged the earth upon the waters.

16:59 He spreadeth out the heavens like a vault; upon the waters hath he founded it.
16:60 In the desert hath he made springs of water, and pools upon the tops of

the mountains, that the floods might pour down from the high rocks to water the earth.
16:61 He made man, and put his heart in the midst of the body, and gave

him breath,
life, and
understanding.
16:62 Yea and the
Spirit of
Almighty God,
which made
all things, and
searcheth out all
hidden things in
the secrets of

the earth,
16:63 Surely he knoweth your inventions, and what ye think in your hearts, even them that sin, and would hide their sin.
16:64 Therefore hath the Lord

exactly searched out all your works, and he will put you all to shame.

16:65 And when your sins are brought forth, ye shall be ashamed before men, and

your own sins shall be your accusers in that day.

16:66 What will ye do? or how will ye hide your sins before God and his angels?

16:67 Behold, God himself is

the judge, fear him: leave off from your sins, and forget your iniquities, to meddle no more with them for ever: so shall God lead you forth, and deliver you

from all trouble.
16:68 For,
behold, the
burning wrath
of a great
multitude is
kindled over
you, and they
shall take away
certain of you,
and feed you,

being idle, with things offered unto idols.
16:69 And they that consent unto them shall be had in derision and in reproach, and trodden under foot.

16:70 For there shall be in every place, and in the next cities, a great insurrection upon those that fear the Lord.
16:71 They shall be like mad men, sparing none,

but still spoiling and destroying those that fear the Lord.

16:72 For they shall waste and take away their goods, and cast them out of their houses.

16:73 Then shall they be known, who are my chosen; and they shall be tried as the gold in the fire.

16:74 Hear, O ye my beloved, saith the Lord:

behold, the days of trouble are at hand, but I will deliver you from the same.
16:75 Be ye not afraid neither doubt; for God is your guide,
16:76 And the guide of them

who keep my commandments and precepts, saith the Lord God: let not your sins weigh you down, and let not your iniquities lift up themselves.

16:77 Woe be

unto them that are bound with their sins, and covered with their iniquities like as a field is covered over with bushes, and the path thereof covered with thorns, that no

man may travel through!
16:78 It is left undressed, and is cast into the fire to be consumed therewith.